

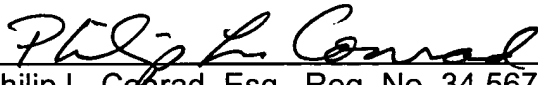
Remarks and Arguments

Claims 1-8, 10-11 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,270,212 ("Horiuchi"). Claims 1, 10-12, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,477,207 ("Auger"). Claims 1 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,800,602 ("Jones").

While making the aforementioned rejections, the examiner also stated that Claims 13-15, which were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, in order to obviate the examiner's prior art rejections, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 13. Claim 13 has correspondingly been canceled, and Claim 14 amended to depend from Claim 1. In addition, Claim 15 has been amended to remove a limitation similar to that added to Claim 1 by amendment, thereby avoiding duplication of this limitation. Reconsideration of 1-12, 16 and 17 is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing amendments, all of the remaining claims of the application are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is hereby respectfully requested. If it is believed that a telephone conference would help expedite prosecution of the application, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees due for the filing of this paper to the applicant's attorneys' Deposit Account No. 02-3038.

Respectfully submitted


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Date: April 7, 2006